

EPISODE OUTLINE - THE INFLATED JOB (Episode 22)

Principal Characters: Supporting Characters: Extras:
All J.B. King Assorted passengers
Felix Perez

SOCIAL THEME: What a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive.

STATION EVENT: Vickie makes friends with Dan and Kara; cast meets Felix for the first time.

THOMAS EPISODES: "Dirty Work," and "No Joke for James."

PUPPET SONG: "Mama Don't Allow"

- each kid gets to play rhythm instrument

PICTURE MACHINE SONG: None

Mr. McCall
John McCutcheon

ACQUIRED FOOTAGE: TBD

CREATIVE PLAY: None

particularly

BILLY STORY: Why it's important to tell the truth when working on the railroad.

RESOLUTION: In the kid's eagerness to make new friends, they learn that you can't build friendships on lies.

STORY OUTLINE: The story opens with the kids helping Stacy and Billy around the station. J. B. King arrives and quietly begins looking around for Mr. Conductor. While he ducks down, Mr. Conductor appears on ledge overhead. When Stacy approaches J. B. King he jumps up, bumping his head, and Mr. Conductor vanishes.

why?
need explanation
& purpose

Composing himself, J. B. King tells Stacy that an important train will be passing through Shining Time Station later that day, and he wants everything to be in top condition. He will be back to check up on her. J. B. King exits.

explain

Felix arrives looking for passengers. Seeing there are none, Felix tries to enlist Stacy into trying out for his new play. He gives some exaggerated lines from the play. Dan and Kara are enthralled by the performance, but Stacy kindly declines Felix's offer. Schemer begins to pester Felix about giving him a part, and follows him out of the station.

linked to
important train

could be
comy

The kids think they would be good in a play, and when Stacy leaves on an errand they "play pretend": Kara assumes Billy's job and Dan assumes Stacy's job.



Schemer returns to the station and, unseen by the kids, hides in the arcade and listens to them. Throughout the following scene, there are cutaways to Schemer rubbing his hands in anticipation, covering his mouth not to laugh, etc.

After a few moments of Dan and Kara playing make believe, Vickie enters and sees Dan behind the ticket booth and Kara working on the train schedule, wearing Billy's engineer hat. When Vickie asks what they're doing, Dan and Kara lie and tell Vickie that Stacy and Billy have promoted them to Assistant Station Manager and Assistant Engineer. Vickie is impressed by the lie, but also had her doubts.

When Dan and Kara ask Vickie if she's come to the station looking for something to do, Vickie responds with a lie of her own: she has plenty of things to do, and lots of friends to play with. She only came over to the station because she was looking for a place to have a party for all her friends--she has so many friends that her own house is getting too small for fit them all.

Dan takes the lie to another level when, as the Assistant Station Manager, he tells Vickie she can have the party at the station. Just as Vickie starts to question whether they can really let her have the party there, the phone rings and it's J.B. King. He's calling to inform Stacy and Billy that the special train has been delayed until tomorrow. Dan repeats the information back in an official manner "grown-up" manner, then promptly forgets it.

Any doubts Vickie had are now gone, and having gotten herself into a lie of her own, she agrees to come back later to arrange for the party. With evident and growing trepidation on both sides, the kids say good-bye. Dan and Kara know they've lied, but they want Vickie to like them, and don't know how to stop what they've started.

Schemer emerges from his hiding place and begins repeating Dan and Kara's lies back to them. Realizing that he knows everything, the kids beg him not to tell on them. Schemer strikes a deal: if they agree to be his personal servants, and obey all his orders, he won't tell on them. The kids accept this form of blackmail, and Schemer orders them to begin by polishing all his arcade machines.

Puppets briefly discover that they have lied to each other, and get into an argument.

As the kids continue working, Mr. Conductor appears and tells TTE story "Dirty Work." After the story, the kids insist that their lie, unlike the lie in the TTE story, won't get anyone in trouble. Mr. Conductor points out that their lies have already gotten them in trouble. He suggests they talk to Stacy and Billy.

*

Stacy enters and dashes over to the ticket booth. She is in a hurry, trying to get ready for the special train, and doesn't have a lot of time. Dan starts asking her some leading questions about lying as he gropes for a solution to his problem. But in her haste, Stacy doesn't give the answers he's looking for.

and
Blackmail

Meanwhile, Kara is proposing to Billy--in a very round about way--that he leave the station open that night, but then go away for a little while. Like Stacy, Billy is occupied getting ready for the special train, and when he asks Kara if there is a problem, she hesitates then answers that everything is fine. In the background, over Billy's shoulder, Mr. Conductor smacks his forehead in exasperation.

With Schemer at the arcade, Stacy and Billy briefly leave the station. Alone with the kids, Schemer pulls a sheet off an easy chair in the arcade and stretches out to relax. He takes a little bell out of his pocket which he uses to ring for service. Ringing the bell, Schemer orders the kids to shine his shoes, mop the arcade floor, pour drinks for him into a champaign glass, etc. while he sits back and savors every moment. He commands some music and, making the kids use their own money, they play a puppet song.

PUPPET SONG: "Mama Don't Allow"

Your Lying Eyes

Schemer tells them he needs some rest, and sets a timer then tells them to come back when the timer rings. He puts on a sun visor and falls to sleep. His snoring fills the station.

Mr. Conductor appears and reminds the kids that he had warned them not to lie. The kids ask him to help with his magic and he explains why his magic won't work in this case. Instead he tells them the TTE story "No Joke For James." After the story, the kids conclude that they can't keep lying, and they will have to tell Vickie the truth--even if it means she won't like them anymore.

when?

The timer goes off and Schemer begins to ring the bell. The kids tell him that they won't take his orders any longer. At that point, J.B. King, Billy and Stacy converge on the station and gather at the arcade, where Schemer is still stretched out on the easy chair.

J.B. King asks if Stacy got the message about the special train being delayed. He says he spoke to a Mr. Dan Jones, who was the Assistant Manager. Taken aback, Stacy and Billy confer with Dan and Kara. The whole story comes tumbling out. Wondering why Dan and Kara hadn't told them earlier, the kids say that they tried, but Stacy and Billy had seemed too busy. Stacy pulls herself together and tries to cover for Dan, but Dan and Kara step forward and confess that they were the ones responsible.

J. B. King accepts their explanation, then turns his attention to Schemer, who is quickly trying to pack his things and quietly leave. He puts Schemer on warning that this is a train station, not a living room--and although Schemer tries to pin the blame on the kids--he gets the message from J.B. King.

*

The kids are concerned that once Vickie learns the truth she won't want them as friends. Talking to Stacy, Dan points out they were only "pretending" like Felix and his play, and Stacy describes the difference between "playing" at something and telling a lie. And Stacy adds that if Vickie is really a friend she'll accept Dan and Kara for who they are--not for who they were pretending to be. As far as the party is concerned, they will have to tell Vickie the truth: there won't be a party at Shining Time Station that evening. Finally, Stacy says she will make sure in the future that she's never too busy to listen to a problem.

Kara, meanwhile, is trying to explain why she couldn't tell Billy the truth: she wanted to work the problem out herself. Billy tells her that if she wants to be an engineer, she'll have to learn how to trust others. And he tells her a brief story that illustrates the importance of trusting others and seeking help when you're in trouble using his experience on the railroad as an example.

Vickie arrives and Dan and Kara come out to meet her. But before they can tell her the truth, Vickie reveals that she doesn't have all the friends she had bragged about--in fact, she had come over to Shining Time Station to see if Dan and Kara would play with her, but when she saw how important they were, she thought they wouldn't want her as a friend.

Dan and Kara confess that they really weren't Assistant Station Manager and Assistant Engineer--but someday they want to have those jobs. Felix returns, looking for child actors in his play. The kids volunteer. We close with the three kids excitedly talking about being in the play together.

Why not have an evening play?
?
Tie it to
important train

Mama Don't 'Low

Ma - ma don't 'low no gui - tar pick - in' 'round here. *D7*

Ma - ma don't 'low no gui - tar pick - in' 'round here. *D7*

don't care what Ma - ma don't 'low, Gon - da pick my gui - tar

don't care what Ma - ma don't 'low, Gon - da pick my gui - tar

• how, Ma - ma don't 'low no gui - tar pick - in' 'round here. *G*

Mama don't 'low: no banjo playin' 'round here...

Mama don't 'low' no cigar smokin' 'round here...

Mama don't 'low to midnight ramblin' 'round here...

land survey

Skillet Good And Greasy

A musical score for 'The Jemmetown Blues' on two staves. The top staff is for a soprano or alto voice, and the bottom staff is for a bass or baritone voice. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music includes various rests, eighth and sixteenth note patterns, and a dynamic instruction 'Keep time'.

6/6/91

#22

SHINING TIME STATION

THE INFLATED JOB

BY

SEAN KELLY

FIRST DRAFT
MAY 28, 1991

(BILLY IS CONCENTRATING HARD AS HE PAINSTAKINGLY DOES A BIT OF REWIRING ON A SIGNAL LIGHT AT HIS WORD TABLE. KARA IS NEARBY, HOLDING A SWITCH. SHE IS WEARING BILLY'S "ENGINEER HAT" AS SHE WATCHES, ENTHRALLED.)

Kara:

Now, Billy?

Billy:

Not yet, Kara. (PAUSE)
Ummmm... There! Okay.
Let's try it.

(KARA THROWS THE SWITCH.
THE LIGHT COMES ON,
FLASHING.)

Kara:

(cheers) Yay! We did it.

Billy:

Yes we did. Thanks for
your help, Kara.

Kara:

You're welcome, See you
later...

(KARA SCAMPERS OUT THE
DOOR LEADING TO THE
WAITING ROOM.)

2. MAIN SET.

(STACY IS AT THE TICKET DESK. BESIDE HER DAN
IS CAREFULLY COUNTING TICKETS, AND PUTTING
THEM IN SEPARATE STACKS.)

SFX PHONE

(STACY ANSWERS IT.)

Stacy:

Shining Time Station.

Stacy Jones speaking,
(pause) Mr. King? Mr.
J.B. King?

*Clarify if call is from or to
Mr. King*
J "You want to speak
to Mr. King!"

(STACY LOOKS AT DAN AND SHRUGS, PUZZLED, HE SHRUGS BACK. KARA ENTERS AND STANDS NEARBY, EXAMINING THE TICKETS DAN HAS BEEN SEPARATING, WHEN SHE REACHES TO TOUCH THEM, DAN SILENTLY GESTURES TO HER "HANDS OFF." SHE SUPPRESSES A GIGGLE AND REACHES FOR THEM AGAIN, TEASING, HE GIVES HER AN INDIGNANT LOOK. (ALL THIS IN MIME -- THEY ARE BEING QUIET WHILE STACY IS ON THE PHONE.)

Stacy: (cont.)

No, I don't think Mr. King is here at the station right now. Can I give him a message if I see him? (pause) Call his office? Fine. Bye now.

You will / He should

(SHE HANGS UP, SAYS TO KARA AND DAN)

Stacy: (cont.)

J.B. King is on his way over here from the Railroad office. I hope Billy has that broken signal light fixed by the time he gets here.

Kara:

It is fixed. We did it. That's what I came to tell you. Come and see.

Dan:

(to Kara, slightly defensive) I was helping too, you know. I was double-checking the tickets for Stacy.

Stacy:

(making peace) You're both a big help. I don't know how we'd manage around here without *both of* you... *A*

(AS THEY EXIT TO THE WORKSHOP, J.B. KING ENTERS THE WAITING ROOM BY THE FRONT DOOR. HE LOOKS AROUND CAREFULLY, TO BE SURE HE IS ALONE. THEN HE BEGINS PROWLING THE WALLS, CALLING OUT SOFTLY... AND EVERY SO OFTEN CHECKING TO SEE THAT HE IS NOT BEING OBSERVED...)

King:

Mr. Conductor? Hello?
Yoo-hoo. I know you're around here somewhere, my friend. Come out, come out wherever you are.

Why does he want to find
me Conductor
?

ANGLE ON:

(KING BENDING LOW. EXAMINING THE BASEBOARD, MR CONDUCTOR APPEARS, SMILING, ON A LEDGE ABOVE HIS HEAD.)

King: (cont.)

Mr Conductor, as the superintendent of the Indian Valley Railroad, I order you to appear.
(pause) Please?

ANGLE ON:

(STACY, DAN AND KARA STANDING IN THE DOOR TO BILLY'S WORKSHOP, WATCHING ALL THIS, AMUSED. DAN AND KARA WAVE BACK TO MR CONDUCTOR, STACY STEPS FORWARD.)

Stacy:

Mr. King?

(KING STANDS UP SUDDENLY, CAUGHT IN THE ACT, BUT BLUFFING, HE BANGS HIS HEAD ON THE SHELF, AND MR CONDUCTOR VANISHES.)

King:

Ah. Ms. Jones. Yes indeed. I was just, ah, checking for mice. No mice. That's good.

Stacy:

Your assistant called here a minute ago, Mr.

King. He wants you to
call your office.

King:

Well, I'm on my way there
now. I just came by to
tell you, Ms Jones, that
the Peach Blossom
Special, a very important
train, has been rerouted,
and will be passing
through Indian Valley
this afternoon. I want to
be sure everything around
this station is ship-
shape ... or "train-
shape," as the case may
be.

Stacy:

You can count on us, sir.

(KING BEGINS TO LEAVE, WALKING BACKWARDS,
STILL SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED ABOUT HE EARLIER
DISCOVERY...)

King:

Tip-top. Excellent, well,
I must be off, then. No
mice. Not a single mouse.
That's excellent. Tip-
top. Well...

(HE BACKS INTO FELIX ENTERING THROUGH THE
FRONT DOOR.)

Felix:

(Spanish TK for "Excuse
me, Senor King.")

King:

No, no excuse me Mr.
Perez.

(KING EXITS. STACY, DAN AND KARA SURROUND
FELIX.)

Stacy/Dan/Kara:

Hi, Felix. Hello Mr
Perez. Buenos dias, Senor

Perez.

Felix:

Buenos dias everyone, Are there any passengers wishing to ride into town? Any passengers wishing to go anywhere?

Stacy:

Sorry, Felix, not so far today.

Dan:

No one got off the 9:14 local.

Kara:

And the 10.03 didn't even stop.

Felix:

So, then, Stacy, you're not too busy.

Stacy:

Too busy for what?

Felix:

To audition for our new play.

Stacy:

Oh, Felix, we're not going through this again...

...she means up to be heard
she told you & gave up a long
year ago

(STACY TURNS AND WALKS TO THE TICKET COUNTER.)

Felix:

What do you think Kara, Dan? (he does the "marquee" sweeping hand-gesture) The Shining Time Stars Community Theater presents Stacy Jones and Felix Perez in: Romeo and

Juliet!

(FELIX FOLLOWS HER, FLINGS HIMSELF ON ONE KNEE BEFORE THE COUNTER, AND EMOTES...)

Felix:

Lady, by yonder blessed moon, I vow that tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops...

Stacy:

(Getting into it.) Oh, swear not by the moon, that monthly changes in her..(pause) What am I doing? Felix, the answer is no. I've given up show business, you know that.

Felix:

(to Dan and Kara) Isn't she a wonderful Juliet?
Am Aren't I a wonderful Romeo? ^ not

Schemer: (OC)
But not as wonderful as I'd be!

ANGLE ON:

(SCHEMER STANDING IN THE FRONT DOOR, HE SWAGGERS INTO THE ROOM.)

Schemer: (cont.)

If it's acting talent you're looking for, Felix old boy, look no further, I was born to play Romeo.

(SCHEMER FALLS TO ONE KNEE, AND BELLOWS.)

"A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse!"

Felix:

That's from another play, Schemer.

Schemer:

Stella

Jo, Muncie

valley

Dear, Jo, I

see a lot

... 2 know that

Whatever. You get the
idea. So, how about it?
So I get the part? How
big's the salary? And I
want my own dressing
room. *with a big star on the door*

(SCHEMER HAS HIS ARM AROUND FELIX'S SHOULDER,
AS HE SWEET TALKS HIM. STACY CROSSES AND
RESCUES FELIX.)

Stacy:

Felix, I just remembered,
I need a lift into town.
Can you take me?

(STACY PRIES FELIX AWAY FROM SCHEMER AND
WALKS WITH HIM TOWARD TO FRONT DOOR.)

Felix:

Perez Pronto Bus Company
at your service, Senorita
Jones. Or should I say ..
Juliet?

Stacy:

(to Dan and Kara) Tell
Billy I won't be long.
And answer the phone if
it rings, okay.

(FELIX AND STACY EXIT. SCHEMER FOLLOWS THEM
OUT, YAMMERING.)

Schemer:

Okay. I'll share the
dressing room. But I get
top billing. "Schemer
Productions Presents a
Schemer Production,
starring Superstar
Schemer .. how's that
sound?...

Dan:

I wonder if it's any fun
-- acting in a play?

Kara:

It must be. But Stacy
says it's hard work, too.
She used to be and
actress, you know.

Dan:

How could it be hard.
It's just pretending,
isn't it?

(DAN PAUSES -- AND GETS AN IDEA -- INSPIRED,
PERHAPS, BY THE SIGHT OF BILLY'S HAT WHICH
KARA IS STILL WEARING, HE PICKS UP THE
(SILENT) TELEPHONE, AS IF ANSWERING IT. VERY
GROWN-UP.)

Dan: (cont.)

Shining Time Station.
This is the manager *A train is*
speaking, What? *Off the*
track? We'll take care of
that!

(HANGS UP)

Dan: (cont.)

Engineer? We've got an
emergency here!

(KARA, GETTING INTO IT SALUTES HIM.)

Kara:

Engineer reporting for
duty, sir.

ANGLE ON:

(SCHEMER, REENTERING, UNSEEN BY DAN AND
KARA. HE STANDS WATCHING FOR A MOMENT,
SMIRKS, AND TIP-TOES TO THE ARCADE AREA,
WHERE HE CAN WATCH AND LISTEN UNOBSERVED.)

Dan:

That was headquarters.
The Cannonball Express is
off the track. Take care
of it, will you? I'm
busy.

(Dan sits back, in the ticket booth, and
begins flipping through papers in a important

sort of way. Kara salutes him again, and at the counter begins tapping with her finger, as if sending out a Morse code)

Kara:

S.O.S! S.O.S.! Mayday!
Mayday! (to Dan) Well,
that's that taken care
of...

ANGLE ON:

(SCHEMER WATCHING, RUBBING HIS HANDS TOGETHER, SUPPRESSING HIS LAUGHTER.)

Dan: (VO)

Nice work, engineer!

Kara: (VO)

I couldn't have done it
without you,
sir!

ANGLE ON:

(VICKIE ENTERS)

Vickie:

Hi, everybody, What's
happening?

VICKIE'S POV:

(DAN AND KARA "HARD AT WORK".)

Dan:

(Hammy grown up voice)
Hi, Vickie. What can I do
for you, young lady?

Vickie:

Say what? Kara, what's
with him?

Kara:

He's been under a lot of
pressure. Being Assistant
Manager of the station

and all.

Vickie:

I am so sure! Come off it, Kara.

Dan:

That's no way to talk to the Assistant Engineer.

Vickie:

As if! (Pause) You're kidding right?

ANGLE ON:

(SCHEMER ENJOYING ALL THIS ENORMOUSLY.)

Kara:

Who's kidding? Stacy said just this morning that she couldn't run the place without us.

Vickie:

So you two really work here now?

Dan:

Yeah, sure.

Kara:

Right.

(VICKIE TRIES TO DIGEST THIS. IF IT'S TRUE, SHE'S IMPRESSED AND SHE FEELS LEFT OUT. BUT SHE STILL HAS HER DOUBTS.)

Vickie:

Well, that's okay. I was passing by on my way to see my friends, anyway.
(pause) My other friends.
(pause) All of them.

Dan:

(very busy) Okay, Vickie,

See you.

Kara:

(DITTO) Yeah. later,
Vickie.

(VICKIE WALKS AWAY. STOPS, TURNS.)

Vickie:

We're having a party. A
really big party, with all kinds of games & treats
actually. Tonight. Me and
all my friends.

(DAN AND KARA LOOK UP -- THAT GOT THEIR
ATTENTION.)

ANGLE ON:

(SCHEMER, BARELY ABLE TO CONTROL HIMSELF AS
THE LIES PILE UP.)

Vickie: (cont.)

I don't know how I'm
going to have room for
them all. My place is
kind of small... and
we'll need a lot of
space... oddle

Dan:

Are we invited

Vickie:

I suppose so...

Dan:

Well, why don't you have
the party right here, in
the station?

Vickie:

I'd never get permission.

Dan:

You have my permission.
Me. The Assistant
Manager.

Kara:

And me, the Assistant
Engineer.

Vickie:

As if!

(SFX PHONE. DAN ANSWERS IT -- VERY BUSINESS
LIKE.)

Dan:

Shining Time Station. Dan
Jones, Assistant Manager
speaking, Can I help you?
(pause) Yes Mr King.
(pause) The Peach Blossom
Special isn't coming
until tomorrow? Yes sir,
I'll tell them. You're
welcome. *notify*

(DAN HANGS UP KARA ASKS HIM CASUALLY)

Kara:

The Boss?

Dan:

J.B. King himself. Now,
Vickie, where were we?

Kara:

Something about a party
for all your friends?

Vickie:

You guys really do work
here, don't you?

(AWED AND STUCK WITH A LIE OF HER OWN, VICKIE
BEGINS BACKING OUT THE DOOR.)

Vickie: (cont.)

I'll...I'll have to get
back to you about the
party. Thanks for
offering ... I'd better
go start

preparation
the ...uhm...invitations.
See you later...Bye...

(EXIT VICKIE)

Dan:

(shouts after her) Hey
Vickie? Maybe we should
ask Stacy and Billy first
just to be sure...

(HE REALIZES SHE'S GONE.)

Dan: (cont.)

Oh boy.

Kara:

What are we going to do
now? Vickie thinks we
really work here. And she
thinks she has permission
to have a big party here,
tonight!

Dan:

Maybe... (desperate) Maybe
she'll forget.

(SCHEMER EMERGES FROM HIS HIDING PLACE)

Schemer:

But I won't forget.

Dan and Kara:

Schemer!

Schemer:

Well, well, well. If it
isn't the Assistant
Station Manager and the
Assistant Engineer! I
can't tell you how
thrilled I am to meet you
both.

(HE BOWS TO THEM, MOCKING.)

Schemer: (cont.)

And I'm sure the **real**
Manager and Engineer will
be just as thrilled when
I tell them all about it.

Kara:

We were only playing,
Schemer.

Dan:

We were...acting..you
know, like in a play.

(SCHEMER APPLAUDS. MOCKING)

Schemer:

Brilliant performances!
You certainly had Vickie
hanging on your every
word ... Perhaps Stacy
and Billy will demand an
encore when they get
back.

Dan:

Schemer, you wouldn't
tell on us!

Kara:

Please, Schemer, don't.
We'll do anything ...

Schemer:

Anything?!? Hmm. You
know -- while we're on
the subject of
"Assistants" -- I've
always felt as if I
needed -- as if I
deserved -- a personal
assistant, or two.
Schemers's Little
Helpers, so to speak.

Kara:

You want us to be your
obedient assistants, is
that it?

Dan:

And if we are, you won't
tell on us, right?

Schemer:

What a clever pair you
are! And why don't we
begin with my two hard-
working assistants ...
hmmm... polishing all the
machines in my arcade?
And why don't we begin
(pause) right now!

(SCHEMER TOSSES A PAIR OF POLISHING CLOTHS TO
DAN AND KARA RESIGNED TO THEIR FATE, THEY
BEGIN POLISHING THE MACHINES.)

DISSOLVE TO

3. JUKE BOX INTERIOR

(THE MEMBERS OF THE PUPPET BAND HAVE THE
FOLLOWING CONVERSATION:)

If there's one thing I can't stand, it's a
liar.
Same here. I've never told a lie myself.
Now that's a lie right there.
What's a lie?
That you never told a lie. I heard you tell a
lie.
If you're saying you heard me tell a lie,
you're lying.
Are you saying I'm lying about your lying
about lying?
I'm saying that's a lie.
That's another lie. Now you're lying about
saying I'm lying about lying about lying.
I think I have to lie down for a while.
Me too. *That's the best kind of lying / lying down.*

DISSOLVE TO:

4. THE ARCADE

(DAN AND KARA ARE HARD AT WORK POLISHING THE
ARCADE MACHINES. MR CONDUCTOR APPEARS, AND
WATCHES THEM A MOMENT.

Conductor:

I think you missed a
spot, Dan. By the handle.

Dan:

(without looking up)
Thanks.

(HE BEGINS TO POLISH THE SPOT, THEN LOOKS UP)

Dan:

Mr Conductor! Hi!

(KARA STOPS WORKING AND SMILES, MOPPING HER BROW)

Kara:

Hello, Mr Conductor. How have you been?

Conductor:

I've been fine, thank you, Kara. Listen, are you two so busy you haven't time for a story?

Dan:

Is Schemer around?

Kara:

I don't see him anywhere ...

Dan:

I think we can take a break.

Conductor:

Good. I think this story will interest you particularly ... It's a story about -- well -- telling stories.

DISSOLVE TO:

5. TTE "DIRTY WORK"

DISSOLVE TO:

6> ARCADE AREA

(DAN, KARA AND MR CONDUCTOR - AS IN SCENE 4)

Kara:

Well, I think there's a
big difference between
telling lies about other
people to get them into
trouble, and just ... you
know...

Dan:

Pretending.

Kara:

Right. Pretending.

Conductor:

Maybe. But your getting
Vickie to believe you
have real jobs here at
the station has gotten
you in trouble, hasn't
it?

(DAN AND KARA NOD THEIR HEADS, ASHAMED)

Conductor:

Or course, I'm just one
of the little magical
people but if you want my
help...

} sounds out of character

(THEY BOTH LOOK, EXPECTANT)

Conductor: (cont.)

I think you should start
by telling Billy and
Stacy the truth.

} sounds a bit too direct

(MR CONDUCTOR DISAPPEARS, DAN AND KARA LOOK
CRESTFALLEN. STACY RUSHES INTO THE STATION,
AND DASHES OVER TO THE TICKET BOOTH.

Stacy:

Hi, Dan, Kara. Sorry I
took so long, Thanks for
watching the station for

me.

(ONCE IN THE BOOTH, SHE BEGINS WORKING --
TIDYING UP, PUNCHING TICKETS, WHATEVER, AND
TALKING TO HERSELF.

Stacy: (cont.)

Of all the days to ^{be}
running late ... with the
Peach Blossom Special
coming through here any
minute now ... Where are
those schedules?

(DAN APPROACHES, DELIBERATELY CASUAL)

Dan:

Stacy? Have you got a
minute?

Stacy:

Not really, Dan what is
it?

Dan:

Well, what would you do
if... did you ever ...did
anyone ever misunderstand ^{understand wrong}
what you said to them?

Stacy:

Yes. I suppose so. Why?

Dan:

Well, then what did you do?

Stacy:

(distracted) When?

Dan:

When you said something
to someone, and they
thought you meant what
you said, but you didn't? ^{really mean it}

Stacy:

What?

Dan:

(Gives up) Nothing...

DISSOLVE TO
7. WORKSHOP.

(BILLY IS INTENSELY BUSY, TESTING THE SIGNAL
SWITCH, KARA STANDS BESIDE HIM, WATCHING, SHE
IS FIDDLING WITH A SCREW DRIVER.

Kara:

Billy?

Billy:

Mmm?

Kara:

Does anyone ever use the
station for anything
like, oh, you know a
party or something like
that?

Billy:

What? Could you hand me
that screwdriver please?

(SHE DOES, AND HE GOES ON WORKING)

Billy: (cont.)

Thank you, Did you say
something about a party
in the station?

Kara:

No. What I meant was ...
I think -- I mean, Dan
and I think -- that you
and Stacy could use some
time off. Like, a night
away from the station.
Like, tonight,

(BILLY SETS ASIDE HIS WORK, AND LOOKS AT HER.)

Billy:

Kara, there's a special

train on its way through
here this afternoon, and ^{probably} _{soon}
I have a lot to do to get
ready for it. But if you
have something to say to
me you go ahead and say
it.

of g.l.m.
what's going on aboard
the train.

Kara:

No, no, everything's
fine. I'll see you later.

(IN THE BACKGROUND, OVER BILLY'S SHOULDER AS
HE RETURNS TO WORK, WE SEE MR CONDUCTOR SMACK
HIS FOREHEAD WITH EXASPERATION, AND
DISAPPEARS.

8. ARCADE AREA.

(SCHEMER STANDS WITH DAN AND KARA, AS STACY
AND BILLY -CARRYING THE SIGNAL LIGHT- HEAD
FOR THE DOOR.)

Stacy:

Billy and I are just
going out to install this
signal light. Look after
things, will you? We'll
just be a couple of
minutes.

Schemer:

Never fear, Schemer is
here. Take your time --
don't hurry back. Ta-ta!
Bye now! Aloha!

(SMILING, SCHEMER STANDS WAVING UNTIL BILLY
AND STACY EXIT. A BEAT. SCHEMER WHIPS AROUND
AND PULLS A LITTLE HAND BELL OUT OF HIS
POCKET, HE TINKLES IT AT DAN AND KARA.)

Schemer:

All right, servants.
Let's get on the ball,
here. Let's have a little
service, My chair,
please!

Dan:

What chair?

Schemer:

That's what chair, Sir
That chair, Fetch!

(HE INDICATES A FOLDED DECK CHAIR LEANING
AGAINST THE WALL. DAN GOES TO GET IT.)

Kara:

Schemer, don't you think
you're taking this
servant thing a little
bit too far?

Schemer:

Oh, I don't know ...
Don't you think you took
that "Assistant Engineer"
thing a little bit too
far?

(KARA GRIMACES, AT A GESTURE FROM SCHEMER,
DAN UNFOLDS THE DECK CHAIR, SCHEMER GESTURES
AGAIN -- FOR HIM TO MOVE IT EVER SO SLIGHTLY,
SATISFIED, HE RECLINES UPON IT, IN STATE.

Schemer: (cont.)

Very satisfactory. Now,
it seems to me that this
floor could use a good
mopping. See too it, will
you?

(Kara and Dan exchange a hopeless look.)

Schemer: (cont.)

But first -- Dan, would
you be so kind as to
fetch me a ginger ale
from that soda machine,
and Kara, I'm in the mood
for some soothing music.
Play something in the
juke box, will you? Ahh.
This is the life.

Kara:

You expect us to use our
own money, of course?

Schemer:

Of course.

(DAN HEADS FOR THE SODA MACHINE, KARA PULLS OUT A NICKEL AND DROPS IT IN THE JUKE BOX COIN SLOT.

CUT TO:

9. JUKE BOX INTERIOR.

PUPPETS HAVE THEIR BACKS TO ONE ANOTHER,
ANGRY.

I'm not talking to you. *because you just took my nickel*
You can't be not talking to me, I'm not
talking to you.
I can't hear you.
Of course you don't hear me. I'm not talking
to you.

(BUT THE SOUND -- AND THEN THE SIGHT OF A COIN ROLLING DOWN THE CHUTE IS TOO MUCH FOR THEM, THEY BURST INTO SONG.)
(SONG: MOMMA DON'T ALLOW)

DISSOLVE TO:

10. ARCADE AREA

(SCHEMER, STRETCHED OUT IN THE DECK CHAIR, TINKLES HIS BELL. DAN AND KARA HURRY TO HIS SIDE, THEY EACH CARRY MOPS.

Kara:

What is it now, Schemer.

(SCHEMER GIVES HER A VERY SEVERE LOOK, AND SHAKES HIS FINGER, "NAUGHTY NAUGHTY.")

Kara: (cont.)

I mean, "How can we serve
you, *Master*."

Schemer:

Watching you two doing
all that work has made me
tired, Danny boy, my
blanket!

(Dan leaves to fetch it, Schemer takes a sun visor and a timer from his pockets. He sets the timer, puts it on the floor beside him, and pulls the visor over his eyes.)

Schemer:

Wake me when that rings,
will you, Kara old thing? *my little ...*
Ah, Daniel! Tuck me in,
will you, like a good
fellow? Meanwhile, you
two keep up that mopping.

(DAN REENTERS, SPREADS A BLANKETS OVER
SCHEMER -- MAKING A "CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?"
FACE AT KARA, SCHEMER IMMEDIATELY BEGINS
SNORING LOUDLY. DAN AND KARA TURN AWAY, AND
NOTICE THAT MR CONDUCTOR HAS APPEARED AGAIN.

Conductor:

Has either of you ever
heard the old saying, "oh
what a tangled web we
weave, when first we
practice to deceive?"

Kara/Dan:

No.

Conductor:

Well, now you have, and
like most old sayings,
there's a lot of truth to
it, even though it's a
bit boring.

too pedantic

Kara:

But what does it mean?

Conductor:

It means you're going to
have to tell the truth
sometime, and the sooner
the better, That's what
James found out.

Dan:

Who's James?

Dan should know, I ...

Conductor:

Oh, haven't I told you
about James? Well, I

will ...

DISSOLVE TO :

11. TTE -- NO JOKE FOR JAMES

DISSOLVE TO:

12. ARCADE AREA

(SCHEMER STRETCHED OUT, SNORING. DAN AND KARA WITH MOPS. THEIR POV, STACY AND BILLY ENTER, RIGHT BEHIND THEM, J.B. KING ENTERS, HE'S IN A RAGE.)

King:

Ms Jones! Mr Two Feather!
Why in the name of
railroads is that signal
light flashing out there?

Stacy:

Why Mr. King -- it's for
the Peach Blossom
Special. Remember? You
personally told us ...

King:

I personally told you the
Peach Blossom Special
wasn't coming until
tomorrow!

INTERCUT -- ANGLE ON:

(DAN REMEMBERING THE PHONE CALL...)

Billy:

I don't like to
contradict you, Mr King,
but nobody told us any
such thing.

King:

Not two hours ago I left
a message with Assistant
Station Manager, Mr Dan
Jones.

(STACY AND BILLY EXCHANGE A PUZZLED LOOK)

Stacy:

Assistant Manager?

Billy:

Dan Jones?

(Dan and Kara approach the group.)

Dan:

It's my fault, Mr King.
Stacy, I'm sorry, I
forgot to tell you.

King:

(flabbergasted) You're ...
the Assistant Station
Manager?

Kara:

Stacy? Billy? It's my
fault, too. Dan and I were
playing a game -- we were
pretending we had real
jobs here, And then
Vickie came in ..

King:

Who in the name of diesel
fuel is Vickie?

(BILLY DRAWS KING SLIGHTLY AWAY TO THE SIDE)

Billy:

Mr King, remember,
there's no real harm done
here, I'll just switch
that signal light off
now, and it'll be ready
for the Peach Blossom
when it comes through
tomorrow. We're under
control here, sir.

King:

Well , I don't know ...
Seems like a heck of a
way to run a railroad.

SFX: RINGING ALARM BELL

(SCHEMER'S TIMER GOES OFF. EVERYONE TURNS AND STARES -- AND THEN FOLLOWS J.B. KING AS HE STRIDES TOWARD THE ARCADE AREA. WHERE SCHEMER SITS RUBBING HIS EYES.)

King:

And who, may I ask, are *you?*

(SCHEMER STRUGGLES WITH THE BLANKET, STRUGGLES TO HIS FEET.)

Schemer:

I'm Schemer, Mr King, sir. You remember? I run the concession arcade here at the station, Mr King. And let me just say it's a real business doing honor with a man like you, sir, I ...

King:

Oh, put a sock in it, Schemer! What's all this? What do you think this is? The tourist deck on a cruise ship? Get this (pause) ... paraphernalia out of here, Now.

Schemer:

This paraphernalia? Oh, this isn't my paraphernalia, sir. It must belong to one of those kids...

King:

Now!

(SCHEMER BEGINS GATHERING UP THE CHAIR, BLANKET, TIMER, PAPER CUPS, ETC ... AND SLINKS OFF. KING LOOKS AROUND AT EVERYONE -ALL ARE TRYING VERY HARD NOT TO LAUGH- AND MUTTERS, AS HE EXITS)

King: (cont.)

A heck of a way to run a

railroad...

FADE OUT
FADE UP IN
13. MAIN SET

(STACY AND DAN AT THE INFORMATION BOOTH.

Dan:

...we were just playing,
Stacy, Pretending, like
in the play Felix puts
on, you know?

Stacy:

Dan -- you know there's a
big difference between
acting in stage, when the
audience knows you're
pretending, and doing it
in real life...

Dan:

Yes, I know .. but
anyway, it wasn't Mr King
who I wanted to think I
was your Assistant.. I
wanted Vickie to think I
was your assistant.

Stacy:

Uh-huh. And does she?

Dan:

(mortified) Yes. And
what's worse, I told her
she had my permission to
hold her big party here
at the station tonight.

Stacy:

Well, you're going to
have to tell her the
party's off.

Dan:

I know. Boy, she's going
to really hate us.

Stacy:

Oh, I doubt that. She
might be a little
uhm..peeved at you both,
all right... But I think
Vickie likes you and Kara
as friends, not because
you have big make believe
jobs here at the station.

Dan:

I hope so... (pause) I'm
sorry Stacy. I tried to
talk to you about this...

Stacy:

And I was too busy to
listen. I'm sorry, too.

(SHE GIVES HIM A HUG)

Stacy: (cont.)

I think your problem,
Danny boy, is that you're
too good an actor.

(THEY SMILE)

DISSOLVE TO:

14. WORKSHOP

(BILLY AND KARA SIT TALKING -- SHE HAS HIS
UNDIVIDED ATTENTION.)

Kara:

I was going to tell you
about it, Billy .. but
when you were so busy, I
thought I could work it
out by myself -- like a
real grown up Engineer
would.

Billy:

Kara, what a grown up
Engineer does when he's
in trouble -- or she's in
trouble -- is tell the
truth and ask for help,
fast. Why, I remember one
time -- I'd just started

with the Railroad, it was a long time ago -- this station was just a water tower and a mail drop -- I went out one cold winter's night to throw the track switch for the Highball Express to roll straight on through here -- and I couldn't do it. The thing was stuck, and I had no idea at all how to unstick it.

(KARA STARES AT HIM, RAPT.)

Billy: (cont.)

There was a telegraph here, of course, and I could send a message, and ask for help -- but I was afraid they'd think they'd hired one stupid young engineer, a fella who didn't even know how to throw a switch.

Kara:

So what did you do?

Billy:

Send the Telegram anyway
I wired them, of course. There's things in life a lot more important than what other people think of you.

Kara:

And what happened?

Billy:

Headquarters said they were having the same problem all down the line. In the cold those new switches were freezing up on all the engineers. They suggested I could take some hot coals out of the little pot bellied stove we used

to have in here -- it
stood right over there --
and stack those coals
around the switch, to
thaw it out, Worked like
a charm. And I threw that
switch minutes before
that train came high-
ballin' through, right on
schedule.

Kara:

Wow!

(BILLY LOOKS AT HIS WATCH)

Billy:

Speaking of time --
shouldn't my Assistant
Engineer be getting home
for supper?

J do we want to send her home?

(KARA JUMPS UP, HEADS FOR THE DOOR.)

Kara:

Thanks, Billy.

(AT THE DOOR, SHE TURNS, AND SAYS SINCERELY)

Kara:

I mean ... thanks

EXIT KARA

CUT TO:
15 MAIN SET

(AS DAN AND KARA ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE, VICKIE
ENTERS. THEY STAND LOOKING AT EACH OTHER, THEN
ALL BURST OUT AT ONCE.)

Vickie/Kara/Dan:

About the party...
(pause) You first ...

Vickie:

Well, thanks for saying I
could use the station --
but I'm not
really..having a party. I

just said that, about all
my friends and
everything, because ..
well, I just came over to
play with you, and you
both had these big jobs
and everything ...

Kara:

Vickie, we don't have
jobs.

Dan:

~~It's~~ true, We were just
pretending. Sorry Vickie.

Kara:

We were just acting. you
know?

Vickie:

Well, you fooled me.

Dan:

And you fooled us. About
the
party, I mean...

(ENTER FELIX)

Felix:

Perez Pronto Bus Service,
Any Passengers to town?

(HE LOOKS AROUND, SEES NO ONE.)

Kara/Dan/Vickie:

Hi, Mr Perez, Saludos
Felix, (etc-AD LIB)

(FELIX STOPS, STARES AT THEM, FRAMES THEM
WITH HIS HANDS -- THE WAY A DIRECTOR DOES.

Felix:

Wait. What a good looking
group. Have you kids ever
thought of taking up
acting?

(THE KIDS EXCHANGE FLATTERED, AMUSED GLANCES)

Felix:

But it takes talent you
know. You have to be able
to convince your audience
you are what you're
pretending to be.

Vickie:

Oh I think we're all
pretty good at that.

(THE KIDS LAUGH, AND ARM IN ARM FOLLOW FELIX
OUT THE DOOR.)

FADE TO BLACK.